

**1.0 GENERAL**

Use the non-destructive testing method called Crosshole Sonic Logging (CSL) to verify the integrity of the drilled pier and the quality of the concrete. The Engineer will determine the number of CSL tests and which drilled piers will be CSL tested. Drilled piers are referred to as piers in this special provision.

The CSL test measures the time for an ultrasonic pulse to travel from a signal source in one access tube to a receiver in another access tube. In uniform, good quality concrete, the travel time between equidistant tubes should yield relatively consistent arrival times and correspond to a reasonable pulse velocity, signal amplitude and energy from the bottom to the top of the pier. Longer travel times, decrease in pulse velocity and lower amplitude/energy signals indicate the presence of irregularities such as poor quality concrete, voids, honeycombing, cracking and soil intrusions. The signal may be completely lost by the receiver and CSL recording system for severe defects such as voids and soil intrusions.

The CSL Consultant must have a minimum 3 years experience of CSL testing and have a Registered North Carolina Professional Engineer supervising the testing and interpretation of results. Submit the proposed CSL Consultant to the Engineer for approval 30 days before beginning drilled pier construction. The following evidence of qualification is required, unless the Department previously approved the consultant and no changes have occurred since previous submittal:

- Written evidence of successful completion of CSL tests, brief descriptions and reference's phone numbers for three recent CSL projects.
- Personnel qualifications
- Equipment description
- Example report

Make all necessary arrangements with the CSL Consultant to have the CSL tests satisfactorily performed on the selected drilled piers and in accordance with this special provision. The CSL Consultant must supply to the Contractor technical instruction and guidance in preconstruction activities and on-site technical assistance and guidance during set up and performance of the CSL tests. Provide suitable access to the site and to the top of piers to be tested. Follow instructions from the CSL Consultant unless the Engineer directs otherwise.

Place CSL tubes in all drilled piers. Perform CSL testing only on drilled piers selected by the Engineer a minimum 7 days after concrete placement and after concrete achieves a minimum compressive strength of 3000 psi (20.7 MPa), but within 30 days after concrete placement. After CSL test results have been reviewed and the Engineer has accepted the drilled pier or approves grouting of the tubes, dewater the tubes and core holes, if any, and backfill with an approved 4500 psi (31.0 MPa) compressive strength grout. If the Engineer

elects not to CSL test a pier, obtain approval from the Engineer to dewater the tubes and backfill them with an approved grout.

## 2.0 PREPARATION FOR CSL

Submit to the Engineer the CSL tube size, the manufacturer's certificate of compliance, cap details, couplings, any joint details and the proposed method of attaching the tubes 30 days before beginning drilled pier construction.

Install four tubes in each drilled pier with a diameter of 5 feet (1524 mm) or less and six tubes in each pier with a diameter of greater than 5 feet (1524 mm). Provide 2 inch (50 mm) inside diameter Schedule 40 steel pipe conforming to ASTM A53, Grade A or B, Type E, F, or S. The tubes must have a round, regular internal diameter free of defects or obstructions, including any at tube joints, in order to permit the free, unobstructed passage of source and receiver probes. The tubes must provide a good bond with the concrete and be watertight.

Fit the tubes with a watertight threaded cap on the bottom and a removable threaded cap on the top. Securely attach the tubes to the interior of the reinforcement cage. Install the tubes in each drilled pier in a regular, symmetric pattern such that each tube is equally spaced from the others around the perimeter of the cage. Tube placement must be such that large vertical reinforcing bars do not block the direct line between adjacent tubes. The tubes are typically wire-tied to the reinforcing cage every 3 feet (1 m) or otherwise secured such that the tubes remain in position during placement of the rebar cage and the concrete. The tubes must be as near to vertical and as parallel as possible, **as non-vertical tubes can adversely affect data analysis**. Extend the tubes from 6 inches (150 mm) above the pier tip to at least 3 feet (1 m) above the top of the pier. If the pier top elevation is below ground elevation, extend tubes at least 2 feet (610 mm) above ground surface. If the drilled pier tip elevation is excavated more than 1 foot (305 mm) below the tip elevation shown on the plans, extend the tubes using proper threaded mechanical couplings to within 6 inches (150 mm) of the revised pier tip elevation.

Before placement of the reinforcement cage into the drilled pier, record the tube lengths and tube positions along the length of the cage. After concrete placement, measure the stickup of the tubes above the top of the drilled piers and verify tube spacing.

After placement of the reinforcement cage and before concrete placement, fill the CSL tubes with clean water and cap them to keep out debris. CSL tubes that are not filled with water and capped will be rejected. When removing the caps, use care not to apply excess torque, force or stress, which could break the bond between the tubes and the concrete.

Verify that unobstructed passage of the probes is achievable before the CSL Consultant arrives on site. If testing equipment will not pass through the entire length of the CSL tube, core a 2 inch (50 mm) diameter hole through the concrete the full length of the drilled pier at no cost to the Department. Locate the core hole approximately 9 inches (230 mm) inside the pier reinforcement from obstructed tube or as determined by the Engineer. Fill core hole with clean water and cover to keep out debris.

### **3.0 CSL EQUIPMENT**

The minimum requirements of the CSL equipment are as follows:

- A microprocessor based CSL system for display of individual CSL records, analog-digital conversion and recording of CSL data, analysis of receiver responses and printing of report quality CSL logs
- Ultrasonic source and receiver probes which can travel through 2 inch (50 mm) I.D. steel pipe
- An ultrasonic voltage pulser to excite the source with a synchronized triggering system to start the recording system
- A depth measurement device to electronically measure and record the source and receiver depths associated with each CSL signal
- Appropriate filter/amplification and cable systems for CSL testing
- An acquisition system that stores each log in digital format, with drilled pier identification, date, time and test details, including the source and receiver gain. Arrival time data must be displayed graphically during data acquisition.
- 3D tomographic imaging software, or source for completing the work

### **4.0 CSL TEST PROCEDURE**

Provide the Engineer and CSL Consultant with the following:

- Tube lengths and positions
- Record of the drilled pier construction information including the pier bottom and top elevations
- Construction dates before CSL testing

Conduct CSL tests between each perimeter pair and major principal diameter and log, unless otherwise directed by the Engineer.

Perform the CSL testing with the source and receiver probes in the same horizontal plane unless test results indicate defects or poor concrete zones, in which case the defect zones must be further evaluated with angle tests (source and receiver vertically offset at greater than 1.5 feet (460 mm) in the tubes). Report any defects indicated by decreased signal velocity and lower amplitude/energy signals to the Engineer at the time of testing and conduct angle tests in the zones of the defects as defined by the Concrete Condition Rating Criteria (CCRC) in Section 5.0 of this special provision. Make CSL measurements at depth intervals of 2 ½ inches (65 mm) or less from the bottom of the tubes to the top of each pier. Pull the probes simultaneously, starting from the bottom of the tubes, using a depth-measuring device to electronically measure and record the depths associated with each CSL signal. Remove any slack from the cables before pulling to provide for accurate depth measurements of the CSL records. In the event defects are detected, conduct additional logs, as needed, at no additional cost to the Department. The Department will

not accept any claims for either lost time or the actual expense of further investigation of defects.

If steel tube debonding occurs, then core drill a 2 inch (50 mm) diameter hole to the depth of debonding for each debonded tube in order to perform the CSL logs at no additional cost to the Department.

## **5.0 CSL RESULTS AND REPORTING**

Submit the CSL test results in both electronic and hard copy form including two original copies of CSL report to the Engineer within 5 working days of completion of CSL testing. The CSL report should include but not limited to the following:

- Project identification
- Dates of testing
- Table and a plan view of each pier tested with accurate identification of tube coordinates and tubes referenced to the site
- Tube collar elevation
- Names of personnel that performed the tests/interpretation and their affiliation
- Equipment used
- Interpretation, analysis and results

Include CSL logs for each tube pair tested with analysis of the initial pulse arrival time, velocity, relative pulse energy/amplitude and stacked waveform plotted versus depth. List all zones defined by the Concrete Condition Rating Criteria (CCRC) in a tabular format including the percent velocity reduction and the velocity values used from the nearby zone of good quality concrete. Discuss each zone defined by the CCRC in the CSL report as appropriate. Base the results on the percent reduction in velocity value from a nearby zone of good quality concrete with good signal amplitude and energy as correlated to the following:

Concrete Condition Rating Criteria (CCRC)			
CCRC	Rating Symbol	Velocity Reduction	Indicative Results
Good	G	$\leq 10 \%$	Good quality concrete
Questionable Defect	Q	$>10 \%$ & $< 20 \%$	Minor concrete contamination or intrusion. Questionable quality concrete.
Poor	P/D	$\geq 20 \%$	Defects exist, possible water/slurry contamination, soil intrusion and/or poor quality concrete.
No Signal	NS	No Signal received	Soil intrusion or other severe defect absorbed the signal (assumes good bond of the tube-concrete interface).
Water	W	V = 4750 fps (1450 mps) to 5000 fps (1525 mps)	Water intrusion or water filled gravel intrusion with few or no fines present.

The following are a few examples of types and causes of defects:

- Necking or arching of the concrete on withdrawal of the temporary casing.
- Necking or contamination of the concrete due to collapse of the side walls.
- Soft toe due to incomplete cleaning or collapse of the side walls.
- Horizontal lenses of silt\mud\slurry due to the tremie pipe rising above the concrete.
- Voids due to the use of low-slump concrete.
- Honeycombing due to washout of fines.
- Trapping of contaminants due to pumping concrete to fast.

Provide the original pulse signal data files and ASCII format of the picks with a header (identifying the pier tested, tube coordinates and each data column) in an electronic file to the Engineer. The Engineer will require 5 working days to evaluate the CSL test results and determine whether or not the drilled pier is acceptable. Evaluation of CSL test results, with ratings other than good (G) per the Concrete Condition Rating Criteria (CCRC) may require further investigation and additional time for review and analysis of the data. Do not grout the CSL tubes or perform any further work on the CSL tested drilled pier until the Engineer determines whether the drilled pier is acceptable. Perform tomography in order to further investigate and delineate the boundaries of any defective/unconsolidated zones with 20% or more reduction in velocity value as correlated to the CCRC. Process CSL data to construct easy to understand 2D/3D (2D cross-sections between tubes and 3D volumetric images for the entire pier) *color-coded* tomographic images indicating velocity variations

along the pier. Location and geometry of defective/unconsolidated zones must be identified in 3D color images with detailed discussion in the CSL report. Any further tests deemed necessary by the Engineer in order to determine the acceptability of the drilled pier will be determined after reviewing the CSL report. Additional test or analysis options include 3D tomographic imaging, single-hole sonic testing, sonic echo or impact response tests and concrete coring.

The Engineer determines the depth, location, diameter (PQ or NQ size) and number of core holes when concrete coring is required. If the Engineer is concerned about concrete strength or requires the use of a borehole camera for inspection, large diameter cores (PQ size) are required. Drill a minimum of two core holes to intercept the suspected defect zones. Use a coring method that provides maximum core recovery and minimizes abrasion and erosion. Provide concrete cores properly marked in a wooden crate labeled with the drilled pier depth at each interval of core recovery to the NCDOT Materials and Test Unit for evaluation and testing. Submit to the Engineer coring records, signed by the Contractor, that include NCDOT project number, name of the Drilling Contractor, date cored and percent core recovery. Allow 5 working days after submitting the core records for the Department's review.

## **6.0 CORRECTION OF UNACCEPTABLE DRILLED PIER**

When the Engineer determines a drilled pier is unacceptable, submit remedial measures to the Department for approval. No compensation will be made for remedial work or losses or damage due to remedial work of drilled piers found defective or not in accordance with the Drilled Piers Special Provision or the plans. Modifications to the drilled pier design or any load transfer mechanisms required by the remedial action must be designed by a Registered North Carolina Professional Engineer. Include supporting calculations and drawings sealed by a Registered North Carolina Professional Engineer for all foundation elements affected. Do not begin remedial action work until the Department has reviewed and accepted the remedial action plan. Allow 5 working days after submitting the remedial work plan for the Department's review and acceptance. Furnish all materials and work necessary to correct defective drilled piers.

## **7.0 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT**

The complete and accepted CSL will be paid for at the unit bid price for "Crosshole Sonic Logging" per drilled pier. The Department will only pay for the initial CSL test on a drilled pier; no additional payment will be made for subsequent CSL tests performed on the same drilled pier. Include in this unit bid price all costs incurred for procurements, conducting the CSL testing, reporting of results and incidentals necessary to complete the work including any other test required to determine the acceptability of the drilled pier.

Include the cost of the crosshole sonic logging tubes in the unit bid price for drilled piers. No separate payment will be made for the CSL tubes. The unit bid price for the drilled piers will include full compensation for furnishing, installing, extending tubes, dewatering and grouting of all CSL tubes and core holes, if applicable, and all materials, labor, tools, equipment and incidentals necessary to complete the work.